

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 6, 14-62, 64, 65 and 67, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-2 (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) An isolated leptin receptor (OB-R) polypeptide which is a soluble receptor and which is encoded by a nucleic acid which is identifiable with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) probe selected from group consisting of a probe for clone 7 (forward primer SEQ ID NO:42 and reverse primer SEQ ID NO:43), a probe for clone 11 (forward primer SEQ ID NO:44 and reverse primer SEQ ID NO:45), and both clone 7 and clone 11.

4. (currently amended) The leptin receptor of claim 3, which is encoded by a nucleic acid which is identifiable with a PCR probe selected from the group consisting of ~~a probe for clone 42 (forward primer SEQ ID NO:26 and reverse primer SEQ ID NO:46); a probe for clone 46 (forward primer SEQ ID NO:47 and reverse primer SEQ ID NO:48); a probe for clone 58 (forward primer SEQ ID NO:47 and reverse primer SEQ ID NO:50); a probe for clone S14 (forward primer SEQ ID NO:51 and reverse primer SEQ ID NO:52); and a probe for clone S3 (forward primer SEQ ID NO:53 and reverse primer SEQ ID NO:54).~~

5. (currently amended) An isolated leptin receptor (OB-R) polypeptide which is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ OB-Ra (SEQ ID NO:2), OB-Rb (SEQ ID NO:4), OB-Rc (SEQ ID NO:6), OB-Rd (SEQ ID NO:8), and OB-Re (SEQ ID NO:10), or allelic variants thereof.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) An isolated leptin receptor (OB-R) polypeptide of amino acids 28-805 of SEQ ID NO: 10, or allelic variants thereof, wherein

a) the N terminal sequence is selected from the group consisting of

- i. amino acid residues 1-889 (SEQ ID NO:80);
- ii. amino acid residues 23-889 (SEQ ID NO:81);
- iii. amino acid residues 28-889 (SEQ ID NO:82);
- iv. amino acid residues 133-889 (SEQ ID NO:83);
- v. amino acid residues 733-889 (SEQ ID NO:84);
- vi. amino acid residues 1-796 (SEQ ID NO:85);
- vii. amino acid residues 23-796 (SEQ ID NO:86);
- viii. amino acid residues 28-796 (SEQ ID NO:87);
- ix. amino acid residues 133-796 (SEQ ID NO:88);
- x. amino acid residues 733-796 (SEQ ID NO:89); and
- xi) allelic variants of any of subparts i) through x); and

b) the C terminal sequence is selected from the group consisting of

- i) SEQ ID NO:11;
- ii) SEQ ID NO:12;
- iii) SEQ ID NO:13;
- iv) SEQ ID NO:14;
- v) SEQ ID NO:15 after His⁷⁹⁶ (SEQ ID NO:90); and
- vi) allelic variants of any of subparts i) through v);

wherein the numbering in subpart a) is based on the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:55.

8. (currently amended) An isolated leptin receptor (OB-R) polypeptide which is a soluble receptor.

9. (previously amended) The soluble leptin receptor of Claim 8 which is selected from the group consisting of

- a) OB-Re (SEQ ID NO:10);

- b) an N-terminal sequence which is selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) OB-Ra (SEQ ID NO:2),
 - ii) OB-Rb (SEQ ID NO:4),
 - iii) OB-Rd (SEQ ID NO:8), and
 - iv) corresponding to SEQ ID NO:55 from Pro⁶⁶⁴, through His⁷⁹⁶ [His⁷⁹⁹], and a C-terminal sequence which is OB-Re from His⁷⁹⁶ (SEQ ID NO:91); and
 - v) allelic variants of any of subparts i) through iv);
- c) an N-terminal sequence which is selected from the group consisting of
 - i) amino acid residues 1-796 (SEQ ID NO:85);
 - ii) amino acid residues 23-796 (SEQ ID NO:86);
 - iii) amino acid residues 28-796 (SEQ ID NO:87);
 - iv) amino acid residues 133-796 (SEQ ID NO:88);
 - v) amino acid residues 733-796 (SEQ ID NO:89); and
 - vi) allelic variants of any of subparts i) through v); and

a C-terminal sequence which is SEQ ID NO:15;

wherein the numbering in subparts b) and c) is based on the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:55.

Claims 10-62 (cancelled)

63. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a soluble leptin receptor according to any of claims 8 or 9, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 64-65 (cancelled)

66. (currently amended) A body appearance improving cosmetic composition for modulating ~~reducing~~ the body weight of an individual comprising a soluble leptin receptor of claim 8 or 9, and an acceptable carrier.

Claim 67 (cancelled)

68. (currently amended) The leptin receptor of any one of Claims 3-5 and 7-9 ~~3-9 and 14~~ which is a murine leptin receptor